

April 16, 2012

To: Professional Standards Committee

Re: Grant Reflection

Fr: Stephanie Goodman, SLP
Post Falls School District

The Apple iPod Touch was implemented in our developmental preschool on 02.21.12. It is currently in use with several students for activities such as requesting items at snack, labeling vocabulary, etc., using the ProLoQuo2Go vocabulary program that was also purchased as part of the grant. The device is highly motivating for students to use in educational and related settings, and allows students who have limited speech capacity an alternate means to express themselves.

The iPod has presented a recurrent continuing education opportunity in several ways. The use of the ProLoQuo2Go program has been an ongoing learning process, as planning, trial (and error,) and varying needs of students result in the call for discovering new uses and functions within ProLoQuo2Go. With the varying options for display, content, etc., the use of the program is ever expanding to suit classroom and individual student needs.

Furthermore, I have spent a good deal of time--since obtaining the device--on researching available applications, finding educational content areas covered by apps, and planning applications of the programs within our preschool environment. In addition to the vocabulary use and other language expression aspects for which the device was primarily originally requested, research and planning have supplied opportunities for creative expansion of the device's use. For example, we have downloaded apps that make sounds (such as instrumentation) that can be used to motivate our visually impaired students. Functions of these musical apps include training 'right' and 'left' by using differential tones, or top and bottom based upon different sounds such as bell ringing and tapping.

Relatedly, due to having the iPod, I have participated in training courses offered through the district that further deal with apps that are useful to educators and specialists, including sharing by people within the district about the apps that are currently in functional use. Having the iPod available has enabled me to share about available options, and explore options shared by colleagues.

Learning facilitation tools *for staff* using the iPod include a sign language dictionary app. Sign is used frequently as a tool within the preschool to help students communicate wants, needs, requests, etc. The purchased sign language app is a searchable dictionary that allows for the easy, continued expansion of known signs that are available so staff can add to the repertoire of words used within the preschool environment.

The Apple iPod Touch has been and will be a continually used tool for meeting student needs and expanding staff learning. The grant monies that allowed our preschool to acquire this wonderful tool are very greatly appreciated.

Many Thanks,

Stephanie Goodman
Post Falls Developmental Preschool, SD #273